**Extra Credit Possibilities** Spring 2015

**Overview**: If there were world enough and time, all college students would be able to really immerse themselves in the multitude of stimulating and mind-expanding activities that a university has to offer. Realistically, though, most SJSU students are too overscheduled and must be bribed with extra credit points to seek out extra learning opportunities. Well, here’s how that bribe looks in this class.

**Procedure:** You can earn up to 30 points per semester of extra credit, with most assignments worth 10 points each. Due date: Turn them in as you do them, but the last date I’ll accept them is the last day of class, and by then you can only turn in one each. (This is to prevent an avalanche of extra work when I’m already swamped.)

**Please Note**: This is a privilege, not a right, and it will be revoked if I detect cheating. **All** of your extra credit points for the semester will be revoked if ***any*** of your extra credit assignments are tainted with fraud or plagiarism. I know most of you are honest and self-respecting people, but I also know some have a hard time resisting the chance to get something for nothing. Just realize I take cheating very seriously. To make cheating harder, I am requiring that the film reflection assignment be submitted to Turnitin.com. Sorry, but I’ve just gotten too many plagiarized ones.

1. **Attend an educational event on campus**, and write about it. This doesn’t even have to be related to our class, just so it provides food for thought. Attend the event, then write a page (typed, double spaced) describing and reflecting on the event. Your writing should show evidence of thought, not just attendance. I’d also like you to attach a program, ticket, or flier—a souvenir of the event. Email me about the event before you go, please.

For example, the Center for Literary Arts regularly brings writers to campus to read from their work and discuss it. <http://www.litart.org/> King Library regularly features lectures, too. Look on their home page under “Events and Lectures.”

1. **Attend Coffee Night** (or any other event) at the **SJSU International House**: Even in Silicon Valley it can be hard to find a chance to have a genuine conversation with someone from another culture. At the I-House, though, it’s easy, as they host an open Coffee Night every Tuesday from 8:30-10:30. Here you will meet both American students who decided to dorm there and students from all over the world. Just go and chat with whoever you find there (but include some students from abroad), and then write about it (approx. 1 page description/reflection) Check out their Web site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/ihouse/index.htm>
2. **Find a good news article, book/movie review, short film (e.g. on You Tube), or website related to our topic of food or rhetoric**. Print out the article, review, or the home page of the web site and write a concise 2-paragraph annotation (1 paragraph of summary, one paragraph of evaluation), and turn both the article and the annotation in to me. Note: this can’t overlap with your annotated bibliography. That’s why it’s called “extra” credit.
3. Find a good **children’s book related in some way to food** (e.g. a child’s biography of Cesar Chavez, or a book that depicts farming) and analyze how the book works as an argument. What does it want kids to learn about the food system, broadly conceived? Does there seem to be an evaluative slant? Usually kids’ books do carry a message, and the visuals often help work on the kids’ emotions, as well. It helps if you can read this book to a child and discuss it with him/her, so those of you who are tutoring or who have young siblings are well placed to do this. Lend me the book when you turn in your analysis of it. The library is full of such books (including King). Ask a librarian if you need help finding them.
4. **Watch a movie related to food and write a report/reflection** relating what you learned from it to some aspect of the class. You might compare the argument made in the film (if it’s a documentary) with an argument we read for class. Or if it’s a “fiction” film, consider what aspect of the food world is dramatized. For example, if it’s a film about a chef, what does it demonstrate about the world of professional cooking? Does it seem to offer advice about how to start/market/profit from a new business? Does it offer insights into what draws people to this field? Your reflection should involve both reporting on the gist of the story and reflecting on its insights. You should also evaluate the argument, whether the film has the intended effect on its audience. Not all films can be read as arguments, but most can. Finally, in case this doesn’t go without saying, this must be entirely your own thinking and your own writing.

A Partial List of Movies that Would Work for this: (but feel free to pitch one of your own). Most can be found on Netflix or in libraries. I own a few, will lend them.

Documentaries

* Fed Up (King library)
* Food Chains (Netflix)
* A Place at the Table (King Library)
* Heifer (IRC room 112)
* Food Stamped (King library)
* Harvest of Shame (King library)
* Black Gold: Wake up and Smell the Coffee
* Cola Wars: Message in a Bottle (King Library)
* Cappuccino Trail: The Global Economy in a Cup Note: this one is in the IRC *and* entirely [online](https://video.search.yahoo.com/video/play;_ylt=AwrTceCzPO5UoqoAMgUnnIlQ;_ylu=X3oDMTB0c2puYm1xBHNlYwNzYwRjb2xvA2dxMQR2dGlkA1lIUzAwM18x?p=cappuccino+trail+film&tnr=21&vid=55115396CA95674C0F1255115396CA95674C0F12&l=3208&turl=http%3A%2F%2Fts2.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3DUN.608018849621346537%26pid%3D15.1&sigi=11r3orndg&rurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DPZ9ft8iOlMg&sigr=11b59nf9k&tt=b&tit=Cappuccino+Trail&sigt=10gm8tr96&back=https%3A%2F%2Fsearch.yahoo.com%2Fyhs%2Fsearch%3Fp%3Dcappuchino%2Btrail%2Bfilm%2527%26ei%3DUTF-8%26hsimp%3Dyhs-001%26hspart%3Dmozilla&sigb=134uih3nf&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001).

Feature Films (some fictional, some dramatized history) All are available on Netflix, many in libraries, as well. I own the first 3, will lend.

* Fast Food Nation
* Sweet Land
* Promised Land
* Grapes of Wrath
* Cesar Chavez
* Big Night
* Chef